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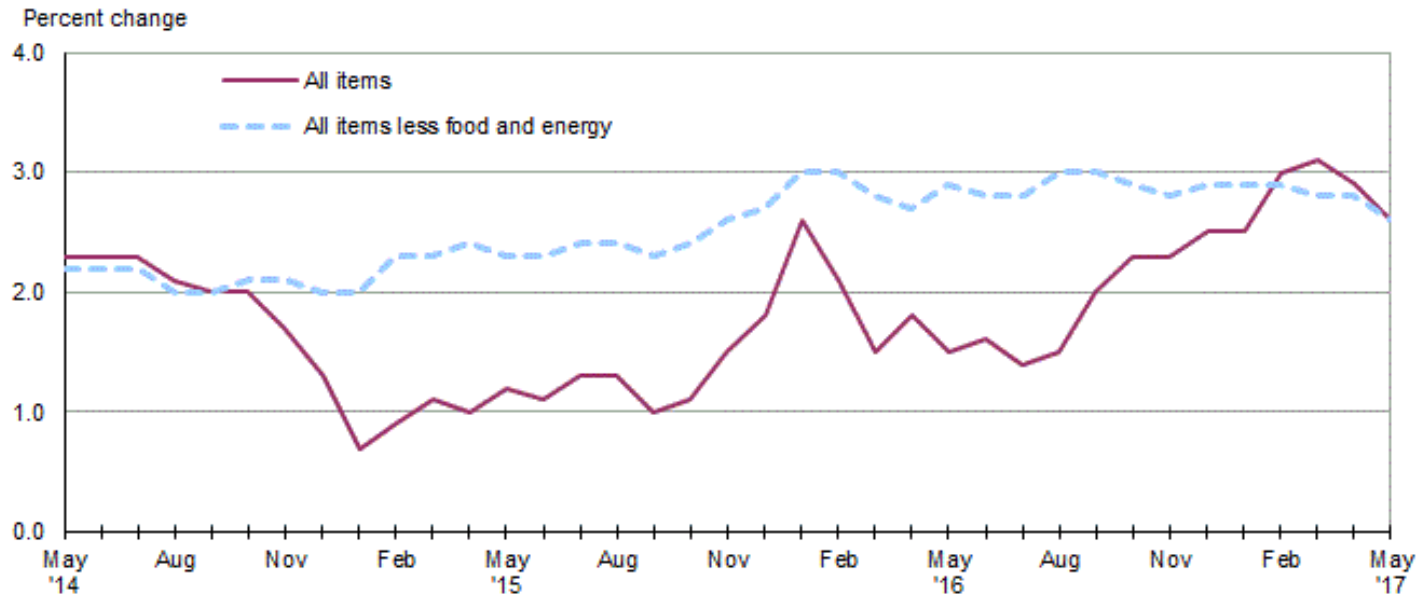
Consumer Price Index, West Region — May 2017

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 2.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.2 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The May increase was influenced by higher prices for household energy and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices rose 6.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, May 2014–May 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home edged down 0.1 percent, but prices for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.2 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.3 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home declined 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.0 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (3.9 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 3.9 percent, and prices for gasoline advanced 0.6 percent in the same period.

Energy prices rose 6.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (8.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 5.5 percent, and prices for electricity rose 2.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in May. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (0.3 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.4 percent), other goods and services (-0.4 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.0 percent) and other goods and services (3.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in used cars and trucks (-3.9 percent), education and communication (-2.1 percent) and apparel (-1.9 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0
March.....	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9
May.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6
June.....	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6		
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4		
August.....	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5		
September.....	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0		
October.....	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3		
November.....	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3		
December.....	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5		

The June 2017 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on July 14, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately

24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	May 2017	May 2016	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	252.949	253.806	254.380	2.6	0.6	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	408.878	410.263	411.191			
Food and beverages	254.373	255.097	255.017	1.3	0.3	0.0
Food	254.222	254.883	254.852	1.2	0.2	0.0
Food at home	246.208	246.511	246.228	-0.4	0.0	-0.1
Food away from home.....	264.355	265.522	265.849	3.3	0.6	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	253.051	254.621	253.890	2.4	0.3	-0.3
Housing	273.355	274.112	275.281	4.3	0.7	0.4
Shelter	313.379	314.096	314.833	5.0	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	329.966	330.389	331.457	5.5	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	328.605	329.569	330.128	5.1	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	328.622	329.586	330.140	5.1	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	285.958	289.567	296.865	3.5	3.8	2.5
Household energy	243.987	247.896	257.057	3.5	5.4	3.7
Energy services(1)	245.440	249.575	259.321	3.3	5.7	3.9
Electricity(1).....	272.976	276.195	286.949	2.7	5.1	3.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	195.274	201.863	209.824	5.5	7.5	3.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.729	128.292	128.144	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1
Apparel	121.617	120.457	118.822	-1.9	-2.3	-1.4
Transportation	203.506	205.005	206.275	2.8	1.4	0.6
Private transportation	197.594	198.878	199.955	3.4	1.2	0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.363	100.914	101.160	-0.8	0.8	0.2
New vehicles	149.494	149.330	149.403	0.9	-0.1	0.0
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	103.836	103.728	103.770	0.9	-0.1	0.0
New cars(4).....	146.411	146.018	146.352	0.1	0.0	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	133.733	135.176	135.515	-3.9	1.3	0.3
Motor fuel	221.855	224.871	226.143	8.7	1.9	0.6
Gasoline (all types).....	220.993	224.041	225.360	8.6	2.0	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	218.145	221.326	222.626	8.6	2.1	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	212.184	214.002	215.755	8.6	1.7	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	218.508	220.855	222.031	8.3	1.6	0.5
Medical Care	475.647	476.828	476.778	1.7	0.2	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	364.078	366.725	367.326	5.1	0.9	0.2
Medical care services.....	510.971	511.585	511.291	0.8	0.1	-0.1
Professional services	353.935	350.724	350.937	0.2	-0.8	0.1
Recreation(3).....	112.930	112.899	112.904	0.6	0.0	0.0
Education and communication(3).....	135.530	135.177	135.176	-2.1	-0.3	0.0
Other goods and services	411.921	424.946	423.336	3.9	2.8	-0.4
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	252.949	253.806	254.380	2.6	0.6	0.2
Commodities	180.523	181.264	181.017	1.0	0.3	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages.....	143.789	144.503	144.202	0.9	0.3	-0.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	183.433	185.192	184.380	2.8	0.5	-0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	227.175	230.834	230.527	4.5	1.5	-0.1
Durables	107.559	107.406	107.527	-1.7	0.0	0.1
Services.....	319.945	320.904	322.266	3.5	0.7	0.4
Rent of shelter(2).....	333.584	334.350	335.141	5.1	0.5	0.2
Transportation services	297.076	299.346	302.509	3.1	1.8	1.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	May 2017	May 2016	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017
Other services	342.105	342.045	342.318	0.4	0.1	0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	242.767	243.609	244.210	2.7	0.6	0.2
All items less food	252.923	253.811	254.479	2.9	0.6	0.3
All items less shelter.....	229.460	230.385	230.895	1.3	0.6	0.2
Commodities less food	147.856	148.599	148.284	1.0	0.3	-0.2
Nondurables	218.913	220.211	219.731	2.0	0.4	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....	188.555	190.316	189.503	2.8	0.5	-0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	229.334	232.804	232.459	4.3	1.4	-0.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	338.458	339.783	342.055	1.6	1.1	0.7
Services less medical care services.....	306.623	307.602	309.065	3.8	0.8	0.5
Energy	234.283	237.732	242.540	6.1	3.5	2.0
All items less energy	256.418	257.087	257.350	2.4	0.4	0.1
All items less food and energy	257.574	258.247	258.560	2.6	0.4	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	140.033	140.525	140.045	-0.4	0.0	-0.3
Energy commodities.....	226.565	229.502	230.557	8.7	1.8	0.5
Services less energy services	325.493	326.258	327.101	3.5	0.5	0.3

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.